

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

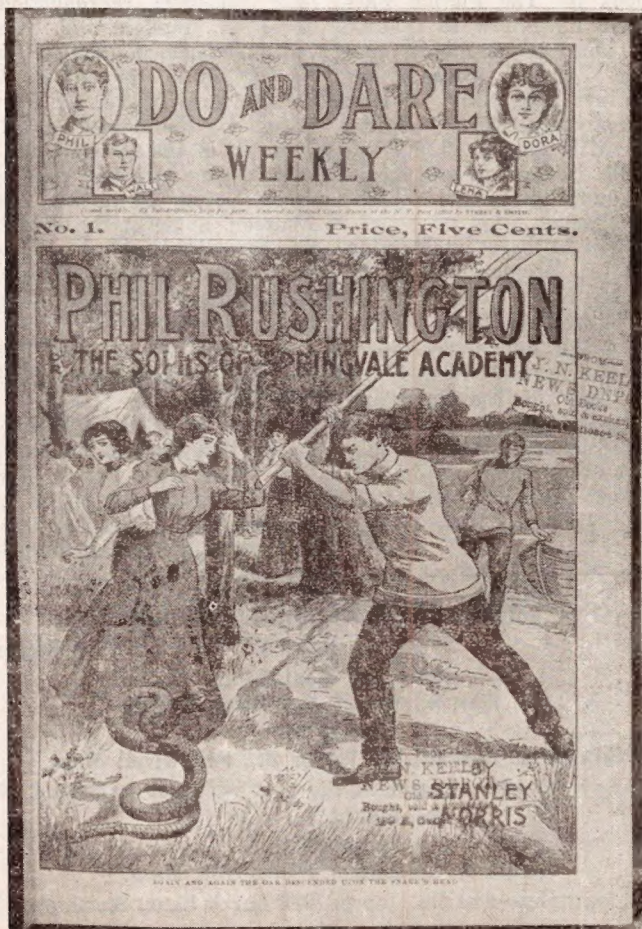
Vol. 24 No. 3

March 15, 1956

Whole No. 282

Just Out! The Fiction Factory,

A Book about Street & Smith, Publishers Reviewed by J. Edward Leithead



Do and Dare #1, one of Street & Smith's efforts to imitate their own successful Tip Top Weekly. The experiment evidently failed as the Phil Rushington stories lasted only 48 issues. The remaining issues up to number 65, the last issue, were filled with reprints of earlier weeklies.

Just Out! The Fiction Factory,

A Book about Street & Smith, Publishers

Reviewed by J. Edward Leithead

The 100th Anniversary of Street & Smith, Publishers, is being celebrated by the publication of a book that not only is artistic and durably bound, a really handsome volume, but relates, at long length, the history of the "S & S." dime and nickel novels and story-papers from the first issue of the "New York Weekly" to the last issues of Buffalo Bill and Nick Carter. This book is "The Fiction Factory, or, From Pulp Row to Quality Street," by Quentin Reynolds, and published by Random House, New York. There are not many, if any, dime novel collectors who do not include novels with the "S. & S." imprint in their collections and prize them highly, and some, like myself, specialize in them.

Mr. Reynolds, in most entertaining style, begins his fascinating book by recreating the New York City in which the "New York Weekly" got its start under the joint ownership of Francis S. Street and Francis S. Smith. You read of the sure and steady growth of the firm, how it branched out into other popular publications like the "Log Cabin Library", "Nugget Library", "Nick Carter Library", "Diamond Dick Library," etc.

There is a full-page reproduction of the cover of "New York Weekly" with the opening instalment of Ned Buntline's first Buffalo Bill story, Dec. 23rd, 1869. Mr. Reynolds tells in detail how Buntline and Col. Prentiss Ingraham created a public taste for Buffalo Bill tales that never ran its course until 1919. There are photos of Buntline and Ingraham. Also a beautiful full-page reproduction of the cover of "Buffalo Bill Stories" No. 367 (published in 1908), by the artist, F. A. Carter, story by W. Bert Foster. My good friend, Mr. Foster, could have been mentioned as he wrote about 136 of the "Buffalo Bill Stories", some of the very best ones; also Harry St. George Rathborne and John H. Whitson. Some of the illustrators for this long-lived series were, besides F. A. Carter, Charles L. Wrenn, Marmaduke Russell, Edward Johnson and Robert Emmett Owen.

Another section of "The Fiction Factory" is devoted to Nick Carter, "undoubtedly the greatest fictional detective of all time." Mr. Reynolds proves that John R. Coryell wrote the first three Nick Carter stories, tells how others carried on, in particular, Frederic Van Rensselaer Dey; Eugene T. Sawyer, T. C. Harbaugh, George C.

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Jenks and Frederick W. Davis. He could have included Thomas W. Hanshew, who later achieved fame as author of the hard-cover books, "Cleck of Scotland Yard", "Cleck, the Man of Forty Faces", etc. There are fine full-page reproductions of a "New York Weekly" cover, depicting Nick Carter's first appearance in "The Old Detective's Pupil", and of a "Nick Carter Weekly" cover, No. 91, (issued in 1898), "Nick Carter in Harness", in full color. There is a slight error in the caption, which states, "Cover of an issue of the 'Nick Carter Library', first published in 1891." The "Nick Carter Library," started in 1891, had woodcut illustrations on its covers like the "New York Weekly" and ran to 282 issues. Succeeding it in 1897, the "Nick Carter Weekly" had color covers, ran to 819 issues, and was replaced by the "Nick Carter Stories", also a color cover weekly, which ran 160 issues and was replaced by "Detective Story Magazine", which change is duly recorded by Mr. Reynolds and the reasons therefore given in interesting detail. Photos of John R. Coryell and Fred Dey are in the Nick Carter section.

Mr. Reynolds outlines the plot of a Nick Carter serial which I believe was entitled, "Tracked Across the Atlantic", first appearing in the "New York Weekly" and reprinted a couple of times in the "Magnet Library". He says the publishers were against having Nick Carter marry; but Nick must have put one over on them, for, in the very first Nick Carter serial, "The Old Detective's Pupil", young Nicholas married Ethel Dalton and, as Ethel Carter, she was mentioned infrequently up to the "Dazaar series" by Dey in "Nick Carter Weekly" (dated 1904), when she was murdered by the criminals Nick was after.

Mr. Reynolds confirms my belief that the author of the Sheridan Keene stories in "Shield Weekly" was Frederick W. Davis, using the pseudonym of "Alden F. Bradshaw." And he solves the mystery of the identity of "Judson R. Taylor", detective story

writer—"Taylor" was Harlan P. Halsey, the creator of "Old Sleuth" in the George P. Munro publications. In speaking of "The Young Rough Riders Weekly", Mr. Reynolds refers to another Taylor: "All of these stories were written by Ned Taylor." I believe that "Ned Taylor" was a pseudonym used by Harry St. George Rathborne, who started the series, wrote about thirty-eight of them, then it was used by succeeding authors, among whom were John H. Whitson, George C. Jenks and W. Bert Foster. Earlier in the same paragraph is the statement, "Each issue consisted of a five-thousand-word short story describing the adventures of Ted Strong . . ." Issued in 1904, the early numbers of "Rough Rider" averaged 26 pages to the story (the balance of the 32 pages filled mostly with S. & S. ads) and should be more nearly fifteen to twenty thousand words; later on, the length was increased to the regulation twenty-five thousand words or more.

In another part of the book we learn that William Wallace Cook, under the pen name, "W. B. Lawson", started Diamond Dick on his long fictional career. A full page ad is reproduced showing Cook as "W. B. Lawson." Considering the importance in dime noveldom of the Diamond Dicks, father and son (the color cover "Diamond Dick, Jr. Weekly" alone ran to 762 issues), it seems they merited more space than is allotted to them. Prentiss Ingraham is mentioned as one of the authors of the "Jesse James Stories", also Lurana W. Sheldon (who did a few Buffalo Bills, too). Of course, a lot of stories that went into the "Jesse James Stories" were reprints from "Log Cabin Library" tales by St. George Rathborne and T. W. Hanshew.

For the collectors—and they are legion—who call "Tip Top" the "King of Weeklies", there is much to revel in. A "Tip Top Quarterly" cover in color as frontispiece, another "Tip Top" cover in the section devoted to the Merriwells, and a picture of Gilbert Patten. For the Horatio Alger

fan there is another whole section, with plenty of pictures. Nor are these all the old-time S. & S. novels ably discussed by Mr. Reynolds, with cover reproductions to heighten the interest.

All the magazines such as "Ainslee's", "Smith's", "Popular", "People's", the later pulps like "Detective Story" and "Western Story", "The Shadow" and "Doc Savage", the hard-cover books issued under the Chelsea House imprint (and many I haven't space to mention) are given full and competent treatment. We learn how they came to be published, what sort of stories they contained and who wrote them, when and why they were finally discontinued. All through this excellent book, we are aware of the activities of the publishers and the editors themselves. It is as if Mr. Reynolds were conducting you on a personal tour of Street & Smith from the beginning. Regarding one particular author, who had much to do with the success of "Western Story Magazine"—Frederick Faust, otherwise "Max Brand" and many other pseudonyms—Mr. Reynolds makes a keen analysis of the man and his works.

I repeat that every collector of dime and nickel novels should buy this book at once. It is a MUST in caps. It is a book that needed to be written, but that I never expected to see. Quentin Reynolds has done a masterly job in writing it, and Random House has done an equally fine job in issuing it in such highly attractive form.

Other comments:

"Mr. Reynold's book is nowhere near as scholarly a work as Johannsen's work on Beadle; and there are some errors in it. However, it was not published to serve as a research book; more to outline the history of the firm, so perhaps we cannot expect years of research in a book that is issued for general circulation."—Ralph P. Smith.

"A must for all dime novel collectors."—Ralph F. Cummings.

INTERESTING DIME NOVEL FACTS

By Howard B. Silsbee

The O'Brien action of 1920 and the prices obtained set the stage for Dime Novels to come out of their many hiding spots so few such caches are found today.

Some of the biggest Dime Novel Collections will never be in private hands again as they are in the rare book vaults of such places as the Library of Congress, New York Public Library, Huntington Library, University of Minnesota Library, Dartmouth College Library, etc.

The English counterpart of American Dime Novels were called Penny Dreadfuls, Shilling Shockers. Beadles at one time had a London office.

Many American Dime Novels, especially stories of Indians and the Wild West were reprinted in Italy as late as the 1930's. Perhaps still.

The original Beadle manuscripts were burned by a caretaker to keep warm in a warehouse.

NEWSY NEWS

by Ralph F. Cummings
Fisherville, Mass.

Bob Traetschel says he was down to the Library of Congress over the Christmas vacation, spent an afternoon going through stacks of dime novels; tons of stuff and only a fraction of it file carded. That two volume hard cover put out by the University of Oklahoma, and written by Albert Johannsen seems to be their standard guide when some one asks a question. Right inside the front cover they have a couple of copies of Round-Up, plus a large sheet of paper with a dozen-odd names of others that I did not know, who were known by the Library to collect.

Kenneth Daggett of Gardiner, Me., paid Walter A. Higgins a surprise visit on Sunday, Jan. 15th, and had a heck of a time looking over novels, post cards, books and what-not.

Nathan Bengis of New York City says the Jules Verne Society is now defunct.

Joe Krajic says it would be wonderful if all the members could get together, and meet at some place, and he thinks the place should be in Canton, Ohio, some time in the summer. As Ohio is centrally located in our country, if it could be worked out, he could get the meeting place free, right where he works in the same building. He says the rooms will hold up to 200 people at one time.

Bill Claggett says it was so cold down in Jacksonville, Fla., several weeks ago he nearly froze up. He had 5 thicknesses of clothing on his back, gloves, and what not, and still he was froze. You aren't the only one Bill, for I'm another fellow who doesn't like the cold weather, guess my blood is plenty thin as well.

Once more, has anyone any information they can give Bro. S. B. Condon, So. Penobscott, Maine, on "The Maine Sportsman", that came out over 50 years ago. Seems that the publisher used to visit and get information on the hunters from in and out of the state, for his magazine. Bro. Condon wishes all the copies he can get, outside of the few he already has.

I want to say, especially on my part, that all the articles appearing in the Roundup are fine—I like them whether long or short, but I know lots of fellows don't like long articles, they'd rather see short articles and a variety, but we all have our likes and dislikes, no matter what they may be, sure would be odd if we all liked the same, I'll say.

Whatever became of Frank Schott from up in Milwaukee, Wisc., I believe it was? Also Rev. Walter Tunks of Akron, Ohio? Haven't heard from them in a dogs age.

Anyone wishing any nice nos. of Tip Tops in the 6 and 700s, let me know, as I have them. Send lists of your wants.

My desk is covered with unanswered mail fellows, and soon's I can get caught up some, you'll be hearing from me.

Fred T. Singleton says in one of his recent letters, that "Having occa-

sion recently to run down certain information in Round-Up, I was handicapped in getting looked for facts by the failure of many writers to give dates when referring to old stories and story papers. The novel fans following fast on our heels want dates, not always volume or issue numbers. To a student on the trail of natural storypaper fiction before 1877, for instance, volume and issue numbers are meaningless without dates. But with the date of publication facts fall into the proper slot. After many years I still remain a serial fiction fan, and get a bigger kick out of reading a story in old weekly issues than in a pamphlet reprint published later. Some of the thrill vanishes in the five- and ten-cent novel form."

Thomas W. Hanshew, 202 Anerley Rd., Anerley, S. E., England, wrote to Wm. J. Benners, Jan. 19th, 1911. "Don't bother to save 'Young Mrs. Charn-Leigh,' of all things—isn't worth it. I should be happier if it were buried and forgotten, happiest if I had never written it. Think kindly of me while the ocean divides us; and come to see me when it no longer does." (That's what T. W. Hanshew thought of a love story he wrote, in the old days, he sure didn't think much of it.)

Where can I get one of each of the following? (Ralph Cummings wants.) Beadles One Cent Song Book, Beadles Half Dime Song Book, Beadles Five Cent Song Book, Bradys Champion Novels, Beadles American Six-Penny Biographies, Beadles Half Dime Novelles, Frank Starr's Ten Cent Pocket Library, F. S. New York Dime Library, F. S. Girls of Today, F. S. New York Mirror, The New York Weekly Story Teller, Irwin's Six-Penny Novels, E.D. Long's Dime Romances, Uncle Sam, The Omnibus, Cheney's New York Novelist, Hilton's Ned Buntlines Own Series of Popular Novels, Dawleys Camp and Fireside Library, Beadles Dime Illustrated Book of Fun, (New and Old Friends—Story Paper size) Beadles American Battles. Even one in poor condition will help a big lot. What do you have?

Floods, floods, and more floods, although the banks of the old Blackstone river and canal that flow by here, went up on its banks again. It didn't go over like it did on August 21st and me up at Mechanics Hall, Worcester, Mass., on one of these cold rainy wet nights, dressed up in my Indian uniform, as the Redmen put on a talent show, Sat. night, Oct. 15. Guess I'm still a big kid yet, but I love it.

L. D. Webster says he has a cataract coming in each eye, and if he gets rid of them, he'll continue to collect, but if he can't get rid of them, then he'll have to sell his collection, so let's all wish him the very best of luck in getting rid of those cataracts, for they aren't any fun trying to read, or collect when you have those things, so we are all rooting for you, Lloyd.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

199 F. Vernon Lay, 167 Watford Rd., Harrow, Midx., England (New)

EXCHANGE COLUMN

(Advertisements)

Wanted—Diamond Dick #44, 99, 149, 158, Young Klondike #37, 38, 39, Starry Flag, Klondike Kit, various numbers, Tip Top Library #1 to 13. James H. VanDemark, 113 Vliet Blvd., Cohoes, N. Y.

Wanted — Medal Library #355. Movie magazines before 1921. 5¢ Weeklies before 1916. Samuel Olnhausen, 824 Chester Ave., East Liverpool, Ohio.

Wanted—To borrow or buy: Thrill Book Magazine, December, 1919 and any later issues, or microfilm thereof. Walter A. Coslet, Box Six, Helena, Montana.

For Sale or Trade—15 Western Weeklies in good condition. What do you have to offer? S. B. Condon, South Penobscot, Maine.

Wanted—Bob Brooks #22 Buffalo Bill Stories #213, Boys Star #99, Boys of N. Y. Pocket #192, Brave and Bold, #190 Beadles Boys Liby. (Ivers) 2, 7, 55. Diamond Dick Lby. (B&W) #144, 146. George French, 7 Leo Terrace, Bloomfield, N. J.

For Sale — Happy Days, various numbers. Write for lists. Mrs. Elsie Gauthier, Box 5, Palmer, Mass.

For exchange—Long runs of The Hearthstone, New York Ledger, Popular, Blue Book, Argosy, Short Stories and Frontier for The Cavalier or The Scrap Book, two magazines published by Munsey 1906-14. W. E. Bennett, 2305 Indiana Ave., Kansas City 27, Mo.

Wanted—Tip Top #297, 477, 722, 832, 833 and All Sports #13, 15, 25. Carl Linville, 972 Windsor St., Cincinnati, Ohio.

Wanted—Wide Awake Weekly 28, 30, Blue and Gray #0. Lou Kohrt, 2749 Robinhood St., Houston 5, Tex.

WANTED

Blue Books, Argosy, Amazing Stories, Fantastic Tales and any other magazine containing stories by Edgar Rice Burroughs and Talbot Mundy.

Frank Vernon Lay

167 Watford Road

Harrow, Middx., England

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Kenneth Daggett

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FOR SALE

Used boys books: Rover Boys, Tom Swift Series, Boy Scout Series, Algiers, Oliver Optic, Tarzans — also misc. mysteries, Brood of Witch-Queen and others. Also modern and old fiction. Write to

Mrs. Earl Miller

R.F.D. 4 Heacock Rd., Alliance, Ohio
for numbers and price.

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Nos. 130 to 182 \$1.25 each

Nos. 183 to 300 \$1.00 each

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- New Hampshire Patriot. Concord. 1817, 1818, 1819, 1821 each .50
 Connecticut Mirror. Hartford. 1816, 1817 Each .50
 The Weekly Mirror. Boston. 1812, 1813 Each .60
 Boston Weekly Messenger. 1820, 1821, 1822, 1825 Each .50
 New Hampshire Statesman. Concord. 1825, 1826, 1827, 1828, 1829, 1830, 1831, 1832, 1833, 1834. Each .50
 Connecticut Courant. Hartford. 1806, 1809, 1810, 1811, 1812, 1813, 1814. Each .60 1816, 1819, 1821, 1826 Each issue .50
 National Intelligencer. Washington, D. C. 1808, 1809, 1810, 1811. Each .50 1820, 1822, 1823, 1824, 1829, 1831 Each .40; 1846, 1847, 1849 Each .25
 Political Observatory. Walpole, N. H. 1804 Each .75
 Boston Patriot. 1809 Each .60
 Manufactures & Farmers Journal. Providence, R. I. 1826 Each .75
 The New York Times. 1860, 1861, 1863, Each .50

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 Morrison's Sensational Series #46—Frank James on the Trail.
 Boys Star Library #344 Jack Wright and his Electric Stage (A Jack Wright James Boys story)
 Wide Awake Library #553 Frank Reade and his Steam Horse
 Nuggett Library #134 Tom Edison Jr.'s Electric Sea Spider
 Beadles Boys Library #13 A Rolling Stone (Life of Col. Prentiss Ingraham, writer of novels)
 Beadle Boys Library #54 California Joe, the Mysterious Plainsman
 Beadle Boys Library #7 Roving Joe (Life of Jos. E. Badger Jr., writer of novels)
 Bob Brooks Library #27 Train Wreckers Betrayed
 Frank Reade Library #1 Frank Reade Jr. and his New Steam Man
 Beadles Dime Library #165 Joaquin, The Terrible (Authentic true story of Joaquin Marrieta, Calif. outlaw)
 Wide Awake Library #479 The James Boys in Minnesota.
 The 5¢ Wide Awake Library #48 Cavalry Jack in the Swamps.
 For you can't get the original, get the reprint while you can at .50 each or all 13 for \$5.00 sent postpaid.
 And I'll throw in for good measure N. Y. Detective Library #452, Chased over Three Continents, an old King Brady story.

Ralph F. Cummings

Fisherville, Mass.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS OLD!!!

Street and Smith are celebrating their 100th Anniversary. Quentin Reynolds has written a book called *THE FICTION FACTORY*, or, *From Pulp Row to Quality Street*. This is the life history of the firm, and the people in it—owners, editors, authors, artists. It is likewise a history of all their publications through the years from the beginning with *The New York Weekly*. Dime novels occupy a great part of the book, and their pulp magazines another part. All their publications are arranged according to year issued. The book is handsome, with leather backstrip. There are numerous plates of dime novels in full color. The book is profusely illustrated all through. 284 pages. Brand new copies in dust jacket are only \$5.00, and you ought to have one; if you ever plan to, do it now, and send me \$5.00 for your copy today.

DIME NOVELS:

Beadle's Dime Library. \$1.50 and up.

New York Detective Library. \$2.00 and up.

Boys of England, 12 for \$1.00, our selection.

Up to Date Boys (Eng.), 6 for 50¢, our selection.

Boys of the Empire. 6 for 50¢, our selection.

Young Briton's Novelette #1 to 13. \$3.00.

Assortment of Boys Monster, Boys Champion (1890), Boys Comic Journal, Aldine Half-Holiday, Young Englishman, British Boys Paper, Boys Leisure Hour, Chums, Boys ½d Leader, (Our selection) \$3.00 per 12.

Boys of the British Empire. 7 for \$1.00 (our selection)

Young Men of Great Britain. 12 for \$1.00 (our selection)

Blue Book, Short Stories, Popular, Top Notch, Argosy, Adventure, Railroad, Wild West, Ace-High, Western-Story, Detective-Story, West, and similar pulps. 50¢ each (Some specific issues are higher).

Golden Days. First 5 volumes, \$10.00 each. Volumes 16 to 21, \$10.00 each. Volumes 6 to 15, \$3.50 each. Volume 22 loose, lacking #13, 14, 15, \$7.00. Volume 23 loose, complete, \$10.00.

Golden Hours. Happy Days. Lists are ready, send for 'em.

Ballou's Weekly Novelette. Lots of singles and volumes.

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Penny Magazine. Bound volumes. 1832 to 1838, the lot for \$25.00 (1834 or 1838 separately, \$4.00 each)

Old Sleuth's Own (Ogilvie) #16 to 146, \$25.00.

Young Rough Rider. \$1.50 each.

Bowery Boy. \$1.25 each (Complete set available)

Postpaid

Subject to prior sale.

Ralph P. Smith

Box 985

Lawrence, Mass.